

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of this application are requested in view of these remarks, which place the application in condition for allowance.

**I. STATUS OF CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS**

Claims 80-106 are pending in this application. The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 80-105 are allowed. Claim 106 is cancelled without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents.

No new matter is added.

**II. THE ART REJECTIONS ARE OVERCOME**

Claim 106 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Van Den Ouwehand *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,695,802). Claim 106 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Olesen *et al.* (WO 94/040035).

Although the Applicants believe claim 106 is patentable over the cited references, solely to advance prosecution, Applicants have cancelled claim 106. This should not be interpreted as acquiescence to or agreement with the rejection, and Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter as previously claimed in continuing applications.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the art rejections are requested.

**REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW**

If any issue remains as an impediment to allowance, prior to issuance of any paper other than a Notice of Allowance, an interview, is respectfully requested, with the Examiner and his supervisor, and, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned to arrange a mutually convenient time and manner for such an interview.

**CONCLUSION**

This application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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